NOTE XII.

A NEW WEST-AFRICAN SPECIES OF THE COLEOPTEROUS GENUS HELOTA

DESCRIBED BY

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Helota Sjöstedti, n. sp. ♂ and ♀.

Strongly resembling *Helota guineensis* Rits. but distinguished from that species in the male sex by the less sharply raised 7th elytral interstice and by the more narrowly rounded apices of the elytra, and in the female sex by the more strongly prolonged apices of the elytra.

Length 15—17 mm. — Elongate, narrowed both in front and behind; shining; fulvous, with the head, a broad band along the middle of the pronotum, the basal margin of the pronotum and that of the elytra, the scutellum, an indistinct small spot on the elytra at some distance from the base between the 3rd and 4th striae [1]) and the apical half of the elytra black, the latter with a slight tinge of greenish bronze (the black invades the fulvous colour on the middle of each elytron in a strongly curved irregular line); the 5 or 6 basal joints of the antennae fulvous, the succeeding joints black; the legs black with the basal half of the femora and a more or less distinct ring around the tibiae (broadest on the anterior pair) fulvous.

Head remotely covered with large ovate punctures on the slightly raised middle portion, more finely and more densely punctured near the eyes, very finely on the narrowed front portion.

Prothorax narrowing in faintly curved lines towards the

1) This spot is in two of the individuals before me almost invisible.

front margin; the anterior angles prominent, rounded; the base strongly bisinuate, each sinuation divided into two smaller ones; the median lobe rounded, the lateral angles acute; the upper surface somewhat uneven, rather sparingly and irregularly covered with very distinct ovate punctures which are more or less arranged in irregular groups, impunctate along the middle. The scutellum strongly transverse, impunctate.

Each elytron is provided with ten striae of fine punctures which become larger towards the base and the sides; the interstices are impunctate; the 1st (sutural one), 3rd, 7th and 9th interstices are distinctly raised towards the apex (the 7th from one third from the base), the 3rd and 9th extend to the extreme apical margin.

Under surface: the triangular middle portion of the head is sparingly covered with fine but distinct punctures, the lateral portions are more strongly punctured; the sterna show some large punctures laterally and the elytral epipleurae some fine punctures along the inner margin of the basal fourth; the abdomen is nearly impunctate, the legs are impunctate.

♂. Legs more slender and more elongate than in the ♀; the underside of the anterior femora shallowly furrowed, covered on both sides of the furrow with very minute warts or granules which give it a rough appearance; anterior tibiae flattened beneath, slightly curved in their apical half, the inner margin of the curvation fringed with fulvous hairs; the outside of the apical half of these tibiae is longitudinally scratched; intermediate tibiae with a minute triangular tooth at the end on the underside; posterior tibiae densely fringed on the underside of the apical third with fulvous hairs which increase in length towards the tip. Abdominal segments with a small group of hair-bearing punctures on both sides of the middle, the basal segment shallowly impressed along the middle, the impression provided with a small tuft of short fulvous hairs, the apical segment broadly truncate posteriorly, the truncation very

faintly emarginate in the middle; in front of the truncation a large semi-ovate smooth impression, the top of which touches the apical margin of the preceding segment. Elytra conjointly though rather narrowly rounded at the apex, slightly dehiscent at the suture, the posterior margin rather irregularly sinuated, the sutural interstice terminating in a very minute tooth, the 7th insterstice more distinctly raised than in the female.

♀. Legs simple. Abdominal segments with a single hair-bearing puncture on both sides of the middle, the basal segment neither impressed nor tufted in the middle, the apical segment broadly rounded posteriorly and provided at the apex with a smooth impression which is less deep and smaller than that of the male. Apices of the elytra acutely prolonged, dehiscent at the suture.

Hab. Cameroon (West-Africa). — The specimens of this species which I have before me (a ♂ and a ♀ from the Stockholm Museum of Natural History, a ♂ in the Leyden Museum, and a ditto from the collection of Mr. E. Schenkling at Berlin) are brought home by Prof. Dr. Yngve Sjöstedt, to whom I have dedicated the species.

Besides with the four above mentioned specimens I am acquainted with three others, likewise originating from Cameroon [1]), which agree with them in almost every respect. They are, however, proportionately shorter and broader, and the black spot in the fulvous basal portion of the elytra (which latter is somewhat shorter than the black apical portion, whereas the contrary is to be observed in Prof. Sjöstedt's specimens) is very distinct and well-defined. But I believe these differences to be of no specific value and I am inclined to regard these specimens as a mere variety of *Sjöstedti*.

1) A ♂ from Lolodorf (Conradt) and a ♀ from Yaunde-Station (Zenker) both in the collection of the Leyden Museum, and a ♀ from Johann-Albrechts Höhe (Conradt) in the collection of Mr. R. Oberthür.

Leyden Museum, March 1905.